THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Items Reserved for Manufacture by SSIs

3457. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the MNCs are manufacturing unauthorisedly certain items reserved exclusively for small scale units; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A few cases of prima facie violation have come to notice of the Administrative Ministries. Cases of such violation are examined by the concerned Ministries for taking appropriate action.

Steel Export

3458. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) how much steel has been exported during the last three years;

(b) names of the countries to which this steel is exported; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost steel exports?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) During the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, 1.6 million tonnes, 1.03 million tonnes and 1.5 million tonnes respectively of saleable steel was exported from India.

(b) Countries to which steel is exported from India include China, Japan, USA, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Australia and Germany.

(c) Exports of all items of iron and steel are freely allowed. In addition, the following measures have facilitated steel exports:

(i) Full convertibility of export earnings at market rate of exchange;

(ii) Facility available to Exporters to import their requirement of raw materials duty free under the Advance Licensing Scheme;

(iii) Refund of the duty paid on any imported or excisable material used in the manufacture of export goods; and

(iv) Exemption of export earnings from income-tax under Section 80 HHC.

Steep Downfall in Import and Export

3459. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep downfall in the import and export during April-June, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof with corresponding figures for the previous period; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) As per available DGCI&S data, exports and imports during April—June' 96 have increased in dollar terms by 14.6% and 14.5% respectively over the corresponding period in the previous year; there has not been a downfall in the imports and exports during April—June, 1996 as compared with the corresponding period in the previous year.

(c) Does not arise.